

FACTS about the city of NEWARK, NEW JERSEY



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BRIEF HISTORY OF NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

The year, 1991, marks Newark's 325th birthday. Only two other major American cities, Boston and New York, claim such a long history.

Newark's history is divided into four chapters. The first was its Puritan origins; the second, the rise of its industrial and commercial empire; the third, the present century and its rollercoaster ride into modern history; and the fourth, its recent reawakening now being referred to as Newark's "Renaissance."

Looking around the city today, it seems difficult to imagine that Newark was founded by Puritans, the same people who settled New England at the opening of the American experiment. So stern was the government of the Newark church-state that not to belong to the church meant one was actually outside the law and not subject to protection or benefits of Newark's township form of government. It was not until Colonel Josiah Ogden dared to harvest his wheat on a Sunday that Calvinism met its first challenge, and oligarchical government was ended.

Newark's second chapter ushers in the era of industry and commerce. At first, small homes or cottage industries began to develop along Broad Street with products for export. But it was the leather industry dating back to the origin of the old township in the 17th century, which was largely responsible for creating the industrial giant Newark became in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Aiding Newark's industrial development were three key events which took place in the 1830's. First, was the completion of the Morris Canal; second, the connecting of Newark to the outside world by different train links; and finally, in 1836, the signing of the charter giving city status to the former township.

Newark's industrial endeavors were encouraged by great developers and inventors. In the late 18th century, Moses Combs helped create an industrial climate which brought Seth Boyden to Newark where he developed patent leather, created malleable iron, invented the nail-

Brief History - Continued

making machine, and perfected dozens of other useful industrial inventions. The list of 19th century inventors who followed, included some of America's greatest names: Thomas Edison, who was responsible for the world's developments in light and sound, lived and worked in Newark where he perfected the ticker tape; Rev. Hannibal Goodwin who invented celluloid film, thus making the motion picture industry possible; and Edward Weston who invented measuring instruments. So important an industrial giant was Newark that by the eve of the American Civil War, it had become the American South's leading supplier of manufactured goods labelled, "Made in Newark, N.J."

Close on the heels of Newark's meteoric rise in manufacturing came the development of the city's commercial empire. Banking began as early as 1804 with the creation of the Newark Banking Company. In the last half of the century, the insurance business developed, and today both Prudential and Mutual Benefit, founded in Newark, remain national leaders in their industry.

Newark's third era begins with the 20th century – a century which was, as stated, marked by boom and bust, peaks and valleys, hardship and hope. In 1916 nearly everybody took time to reflect in a year-long celebration of Newark's founding. But a peaceful atmosphere was tested by national and international crises, two world wars, the worst depression in the nation's history, the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, and the terrible national riots in 1967. While the factories churned out products of war on a 24- hour basis, people were displaced and families uprooted.

To many, this downward trend seemed irreversible, but the development of the "New" Newark Movement in the 1950's by Mutual Benefit, Prudential and Mayor Leo P. Carlin was a godsend when it was announced on the pages of the Newark Evening News. At last, two of Newark's commercial giants had taken a stand and began to rebuild their downtown headquarters. Other corporations soon followed and shared in the revitalization of the city. The airport and seaport expanded, the university complex got off to an energetic start, and reinvestment became a reality in many industrial facilities.

As in 1916, Newark set aside a time to reflect on its past accomplishments in 1966 when it marked its 300th anniversary with an important and thoughtful celebration held in May. Unfortunately, as in many major cities

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in the late 1960's, shadows of poor housing, discrimination, crime, rioting, and the loss of a workforce all were working against the City's future.

This might have been the final stages of Newark's existence as a major American city had the decline been allowed to continue. Without the firm hand of Kenneth Gibson, the first African-American elected mayor of a major American East Coast city, the political, social, and economic health of the City might have slid into hopeless bickering with endless backlash. Plans were set in place for yet another "New" Newark.

Two decades ago, applying the term "Renaissance" to Newark might have seemed unrealistic, but today it seems appropriate. The great new downtown Gateway towers are stunning examples of the state's largest office complex. Across Raymond Boulevard is the pink and blue Legal Center. The new PSE&G tower is being closed in by the march of new buildings up Raymond Boulevard. Newark Center incorporates both Seton Hall Law School and a commercial structure, and One Penn Center adds a stunning southern anchor to the complex. (Around the city, rehabilitation and adaptive conversions are taking place at St. Joseph's Plaza, the old Gibraltar Building of the Prudential, and the former Two Guys Department Store.) Small business establishments are refacing their facades. Newark Airport has become one of the nation's busiest and most important international air centers. The universities and colleges are expanding and bringing national recognition to the community, and the newly refurbished Newark Museum is proving to be a major cultural asset. Launching its second century of service to the city, the Newark Public Library is committed to a major expansion, highlighted by plans for a new building and greatly improved facilities.

But unlike previous renewal eras, there are two new elements which make this a truly great movement. First there is tremendous growth in private housing. For the first time in nearly 75 years, vast numbers of upscale private townhouses and condos are being built throughout the city. The largest of these developers is K. Hovnanian. Attractive and affordable low-rise and low-income housing has been built by the New Community Corporation, and the Newark Housing Authority has started replacing its high-rise buildings of the 50's and 60's with more human-scale units.

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A second ingredient to the success of Newark's Renaissance has been the political scene. A hard-working Municipal Council is successfully applying innovative solutions to old problems. Sharpe James, Newark's bold and energetic mayor, has become a nationally-recognized municipal leader. Mayor James has hailed Newark as a city on the ascent. It has come to symbolize the achievement to which other Northeast urban centers now aspire. The mayor's close association with the business community has helped to stabilize the City's business environment, and companies are now returning to Newark from suburban locations. Few Newark leaders have been so respected, popular and well-known locally, regionally and internationally as Mayor James.

In 1916, when Newark celebrated its 250th anniversary, its key word was "pride." Today, as we reflect on our 325th anniversary, not only "pride" but also "optimism" characterize Newark's mood.

Charles Cummings
City Historian

FACTS ABOUT NEWARK

NEWARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Opened 1928. North Terminal opened in 1953. Terminals A and B opened in 1973. Terminal C opened in 1988.

Serves 37 airlines, employs 12,700.

Total cost of construction, \$500 million. Traffic (1987): 300,000 flights, 30 million passengers.

Operated by Port Authority of N.Y. and N.J. since 1948.

TALLEST BUILDINGS

National Newark Building, 744 Broad St. - 465 feet, 36 stories.

Raymond-Commerce Building, 1180 Raymond Blvd. - 448 feet, 36 stories.

Prudential Plaza, 745 Broad St. - 370 feet, 24 stories.

Public Service Building, Park Place, Raymond Blvd. & Mulberry St. - 360 feet, 26 stories.

Gateway I Tower, Market St. & McCarter Hgwy. - 355 feet, 30 stories.

Rutgers University (Newhouse Center for Law and Justice), 15 Washington Street. - 326 feet, 21 stories.

Newark Legal Center, Raymond Blvd. & McCarter Hgwy. - 275 Feet, 21 stories.

BUSINESS

300 types of businesses; 1,800 retail and 540 wholesale establishments.

8 banks, including largest 3 in N.J.; 12 savings & loan associations.

Deposits in Newark-based banks are \$21 billion.

Third largest insurance center in U.S., after New York and Hartford.

Prudential Insurance and Mutual Benefit Companies originated in Newark. Both are headquartered in Newark. Prudential is the largest insurance company in the world.

COMMUNICATIONS

Daily newspaper: The Star-Ledger.

Weekly newspapers: Italian Tribune, Luso-Americano, Stuff, Vailsburg Leader, El Coqui, City News, Portuguese Post.

Monthly or occasional publications: La Tribuna, Greater News, Luso Americano.

Five television stations licensed to Newark: WNET (13), WNJU (47) (Spanish Programming), WWHT (68), New Jersey Network (NJN), 980 Broad St.

Gateway Cable, 360 Central Avenue

Six radio stations licensed to Newark: WBGO-FM (88.3), WFME (94.7), WNJR (1430), WNWK (105.9 FM), WMTZ (100.3), WSKQ-AM (620).

Newark Post Office, with 9 stations in the city and 3 branches (Belleville, Irvington and Nutley), handles more than 5 million pieces of mail daily, including 1.3 million of local origin.

CULTURE

N.J. Historical Society, 230 Broadway. Founded 1845. Includes 5 galleries, library of 50,000 volumes.

Newark Public Library, 5 Washington St. Founded 1889, opened 1903. More than 1.2 million books, plus records, periodicals, pictures, microfilms, videotapes and slides; 100,000 borrowers, 11 branches, including business (34 Commerce St.).

Newark Museum, 43 Washington St. Founded 1909, opened 1926. Serves 352,000 visitors a year, including 62,000 students. Includes Junior Museum, Fire Museum, Planetarium, Ballantine House (1885) and Lyons Farms Schoolhouse (1784).

Newark Symphony Hall, 1020 Broad St. Built 1925, remodeled 1988. Seats 2,829. Serves as home of N.J. State Opera, N.J. Symphony and Terrace Room.

Division of Recreation and Cultural Affairs, City Hall, Rm. B23.

Institute of Jazz Studies, Rutgers University.

Garden State Ballet School, 45 Academy St.

City Without Walls: Urban Artists Collective, Gateway I Tower, Market & McCarter.

Carter G. Woodson Foundation, 69 Lincoln Park.

Aljira Gallery, 2 Washington Pl.

Newark Community School of the Arts, 89 Lincoln Park.

Newark Media Works, 84 Monroe St.

Newark Boys Chorus School, 1016 Broad St.

There are several annual holidays, festivals and parades in the city:

February Black History Month

March St. Patrick's Day Parade

May African-American Heritage Day Parade

June Portuguese Day Parade

July Lincoln Park Festival and Puerto Rican

Statewide Parade

August Gospel Festival and Africa-Newark Festival

September Newark Festival of People

October Columbus Day Parade

United Nations Day

Sarah Vaughan Jazz Festival at Newark

CLIMATE

Normal Temperatures:

January...31°, February...33°, March...41°, April...52°, May...62°, June...71°, July...76°, August...75°, September...68°, October...58°, November...46°, December...35°.

Mean rainfall, 42.38 inches. Driest month, January, 2.9 inches; wettest month, August, 4.3 inches.

Mean annual snowfall, 21.5 inches.

EDUCATION

Schools: 58 public elementary, 13 junior and senior high, 10 special, 40 private and parochial, 2 vocational, 5 colleges and universities.

Total number of public school students: 50,160.

Total enrollment of 5 Colleges and Universities, 25,822. Campuses cover 320 acres.

Essex County College - Opened 1968; three-block \$32 million megastructure opened 1976.

New Jersey Institute of Technology - Opened 1880; formerly Newark College of Engineering; includes N.J. School of Architecture.

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (U.M.D.N.J.) - Moved to Newark 1966. 47-acre, \$200 million campus opened 1976. Includes University Hospital and N.J. Dental School.

Rutgers-Newark - Formed in 1946 through merger of several schools. \$40 million, 18 acre campus built 1960's-70's. Includes Schools of Business, Law, Nursing, and Public Administration.

Seton Hall Law School - Moved to Newark 1971. 3.6 acre, \$4-5 million building dedicated 1976. New \$28 million, 200,000 square foot facility planned for site.

GEOGRAPHY

Area, 24.14 square miles. Smallest land area among 50 most populous cities in U.S.

Altitude, 0 to 273.4 feet above sea level; average, 55 feet.

Latitude, 40°44'14". Longitude, 74°10'55".

PARKS

25 acres per 1,000 residents.

County parks, 756 acres; city parks, 39 acres.

County parks and acreage: Branch Brook, 341; Weequahic, 311; West Side, 31; Vailsburg, 30; Ivy Hill, 19; Independence, 13; Riverbank, 11.

40 city parks and squares; largest are Jesse Allen Park, 8 acres; Military Park, 6 acres; Lincoln Park, 4.1 acres; and Washington Park, 3.3 acres.

4 outdoor swimming pools, 1 indoor pool, 2 ice skating rinks, 5 recreational centers, 71 Board of Education centers and playgrounds.

PORT NEWARK

Opened 1915.

Main channel 7,000 feet long, 685 feet wide, 35 feet deep.

Berths for 34 ships.

Newark has total waterfront of 13 miles on bay and river.

Largest container ship port in the nation.

Leads U.S. ports in car and meat imports.

Operated by Port Authority of NY/NJ since 1948.

TRANSPORTATION

Trains

Broad Street Station: 189 trains, 1,797 passengers.

Penn Station: N.J. Transit - 251 trains; 32,203 passengers.

Railroads also include Amtrak and Port Authority Trans-Hudson (PATH).

Buses:

Newark is the focal point of N.J. Transit, one of the nation's largest metropolitan transit systems.

Each day 39 bus lines make 4,500 trips carrying 135,000 passengers.

Subway:

Opened in 1935 in bed of Morris Canal.

Subway carries 2 million passengers a year.

Newark is the hub of seven major highways, including the Garden State Parkway, N.J. Turnpike, and Routes 1&9, 21, 22, 78 and 280.

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth rate	17.2 per 1,000
Death rate	9.2 per 1,000
Marriage rate	7.2 per 1,000

POPULATION

1666	200 (est.)	1920	414,524
1776	1,000 (est.)	1930	442,337
1800	6,000 (est.)	1940	429,760
1830	10,953	1950	438,776
1850	38,894	1960	405,220
1890	181,390	1980	329,248
1900	246,070	1985	314,000
1910	347,469	1990	275,221

BASED ON 1990 CENSUS

Ethnic break-down

Black (non-Hispanic)	153,703
White (non-Hispanic)	45,344
Hispanic of all origins	71,761
American Indian and Eskimo	649
Asian, Pacific Islander, and other	3,281

BASED ON 1980 CENSUS

Ward population (1982): NORTH 65,828; EAST 65,689; WEST 66,234; SOUTH 65,163; CENTRAL 66,334.

Newark ranked 46th among U.S. cities in total population in 1980. It was 30th in 1960 and 35th in 1970. It is the largest city in New Jersey. Population density, 13,639 per square mile; 5th densest among major cities.

152,696 males and 176,552 females.

110,912 households in 1980; 78,225 were families and 32,657 unrelated individuals. Average household: 2.93 persons.

Newark Metropolitan Area (Essex, Union, Morris and Somerset counties) - 1980 population, 1,963,000; 17th largest in U.S.

Of Newark residents age 15 or older, 89,137 are single, 91,325 married, 23,205 separated, 21,736 widowed, 12,327 divorced, 122,226 residents (35%) under age 18 and 28,838 (9%) age 65 or older.

NOTABLES FROM NEWARK

(Past and Present)

Writers: Stephen Crane, Phillip Roth, Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones), Mary Mapes Dodge, Dore Schary, Albert Payson Terhune, Thomas Dunn English, Henry William Herbert, Washington Irving, Howard Garis, Nathan Heard, Richard Wesley.

Composers: Jerome Kern, Samuel A. Ward ("America the Beautiful"), Bobby Plater ("The Jersey Bounce").

Entertainers: Whitney Houston, Sarah Vaughan, Jerry Lewis, Connie Francis, Vivian Blaine, Eva Marie Saint, Ritz Brothers, John Amos, Mort Lindsey, Jack Warden, Gloria Gaynor, Savion Glover, Frankie Valli, Joe Pesci, Tisha Campbell, Paul Simon, Queen Lateefah, Ron Carey, Brooke Shields.

Professional Athletes: Al Baker, Mike Charles, Norm Granger, Greg Latta, Pete Shaw, Andre Tippett (Football); Rick Cerone (Baseball); Marvin Hagler, Larry Hazzard (Boxing); Cleo Hill, Edgar Jones, Moe Layton (Basketball).

Inventors: Seth Boyden (patent leather), Rev. Hannibal Goodwin, Edward Weston (electrical), Thomas Edison

Industrialists: Louis Aronson, Edward Balbach, Moses Combs, William Mennen, Thomas Peddie, William Clark, Peter Ballantine.

Supreme Court Justices: Joseph Bradley, Charles Evans Hughes, William J. Brennan, Arthur Vanderbilt.

Governors: Franklin Murphy, Marcus L. Ward, William Pennington.

Other public officials: Mayor Sharpe James, Rep. Donald Payne, Mayor Edward Koch, Rep. Peter W. Rodino, Jr., Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson, Sen. Frederick Frelinghuysen, Vice President Aaron Burr.

Others: Capt. Robert Treat, founder of city; John Cotton Dana, librarian; James M. Baxter, educator; Aaron Burr Sr., founder of Princeton, Clara Maas, nurse; Dr. Harrison Martland, physician; Thomas McCarter, lawyer; Louis Bamberger, merchant and Rev. John P. Washington, 1 of 4 chaplains killed on troopship in 1943.

LANDMARKS

- BALLANTINE HOUSE (Newark Museum), 43 Washington St.
- BRANCH BROOK PARK, including Ballantine Parkway gatehouses.
- CASA ITALIANA (formerly Stanley Theater), 985 South Orange Ave.
- CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (now Chancery office building), 76 Prospect St.
- CITY HALL, 920 Broad St.
- CLARK MANSION (now North Ward Center), 346 Mount Prospect Ave.
- CLINTON MEMORIAL A.M.E. ZION CHURCH (formerly Belleville Ave. Congregational), 151 Broadway.
- CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH (formerly Fairmount and Bethany Baptist), 117 W. Market St.
- EBERHARDT HALL, N.J. Institute of Technology (formerly Newark Orphan Asylum), 323 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (formerly High St.)
- ESSEX COUNTY COURTHOUSE, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- ESSEX COUNTY PARK COMMISSION, 115 Clifton Ave.
- FEIGENSPAN MANSION, 710 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- FIREMEN'S INSURANCE COMPANY (former home office), 10 Park Place.
- FIRST BAPTIST PEDDIE MEMORIAL CHURCH, 572 Broad St.
- FIRST HISPANIC REFORMED CHURCH (formerly Clinton Ave. Reformed), 27 Lincoln Park.
- GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 950 Broad St.
- GRIFFITH BUILDING, 605 Broad St.
- HOUSE OF PRAYER EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 407 Broad St.
- JAMES STREET COMMONS HISTORIC DISTRICT - 21 blocks, including Washington Park and portions of Broad, Orange, James, Bleeker, Summit, Halsey, Washington, New, Linden, Warren, Burnet and Eagles Sts.; Central and University Aves.; Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- KRUEGER MANSION (later Scott Civic Center), 601 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- LACKAWANNA RAILROAD STATION, University and Lackawanna Aves.
- LINCOLN PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT - Lincoln and Clinton Parks and portions of eight blocks on Broad, Spruce, Washington Sts. and Clinton and Pennsylvania Aves.

LANDMARKS - *Continued*

- LYONS FARMS SCHOOL HOUSE, (originally at Chancellor and Elizabeth Aves.), Newark Museum Garden, 43 Washington St.
- MOUNT PLEASANT CEMETERY, 375 Broadway.
- MURPHY VARNISH COMPANY (former factory), McWhorter, Hermon, and Chestnut Sts.
- MUTUAL BENEFIT LIFE INSURANCE CO. (Hospitality Care Center), 300 Broadway.
- NATIONAL STATE BANK (now First Fidelity), 810 Broad St.
- NEW POINT BAPTIST CHURCH (formerly South Baptist), 17 East Kinney St.
- NEWARK AIRPORT - Brewster Hangar, old Administration Building, Medical Building.
- NEWARK DAY CARE CENTER (formerly Female Charitable Society), 305 Halsey St./41 Hill St.
- NORTH REFORMED CHURCH, 510 Broad St.
- OLD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 820 Broad St.
- OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH (originally Second Dutch Reformed; now Ironbound Educational & Cultural Center), 176 Edison Place.
- PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD STATION, Raymond Blvd., Raymond Plaza.
- PLUME HOUSE (now House of Prayer Rectory), 407 Broad St.
- QUEEN OF ANGELS R.C. CHURCH (formerly St. Peter's), 44 Irvine Turner Blvd.
- SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL (R.C.), Clifton and Victoria Aves.
- ST. BARNABAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH, Roseville and Sussex Aves.
- ST. COLUMBA'S R.C. CHURCH, Pennsylvania Ave. and Brunswick St.
- ST. JAMES A.M.E. CHURCH (formerly High St. Presbyterian), Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and Court St.
- ST. JOHN'S R.C. CHURCH, 22 Mulberry St.
- ST. JOSEPH'S R.C. CHURCH (now St. Joseph Plaza), 221 West Market St.
- ST. MARY'S ABBEY CHURCH (R.C.), Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and William St.
- ST. PATRICK'S PRO-CATHEDRAL (R.C.), Washington St. and Central Ave.
- ST. ROCCO'S R.C. CHURCH, 208 Hunterdon St.
- ST. STEPHAN'S UNITED CHURCH, Ferry St. and Wilson Ave.
- SOUTH PARK-LIGHTHOUSE TEMPLE (Presbyterian), 1035 Broad St.

LANDMARKS - *Continued*

SYDENHAM HOUSE, Old Road to Bloomfield, near Heller Parkway.
SYMINGTON HOUSE (also Continental and St. Phillip's House), 2 Park Place.
SYMPHONY HALL (formerly Mosque Theater) 1020 Broad St.
TIFFANY & CO. (former factory), 820 Highland Ave.
TRINITY CATHEDRAL (Episcopal), Broad and Rector Sts.
U.S. POST OFFICE, Federal Square.
WATTS, CAMPBELL CO., 1270 McCarter Highway.
YOUTH CONSULTATION SERVICE (formerly Protestant Foster Home), 284 Broadway.

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